

2009 Report on Act 176 of 2006
An Act Relating to the High School
Completion Program (FY08)

Report to the Senate and House Committees on Education
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Submitted by:



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Report on the High School Completion Program (FY08)

The High School Completion Program, established by Act 176 as enacted in 2006, has experienced success over its first two years as measured by participation rates, completion rates and its impact on the adult education system and high school partners. The most important beneficiaries of this new program are the students it serves.

During its first year, the High School Completion Program worked with 175 youth to complete their high school education, earn a diploma, and transition to career or higher education. In the second year (FY08) there were 436 active students in the program. That represents a significant reduction of the number of unengaged drop-outs and associated social costs, and an increase of high school graduates prepared to take their place as productive citizens

It is important to note that graduation education plans are not written simply for the purpose of earning credits needed for a high school diploma. The beginning point of plan development is the determination of a student's skill in reading, writing and math, as well as the student's goals. Successful completion of a well-written plan should result in a high school diploma, and the skills necessary to transition to post-secondary experience.

The program has also had an impact on the quality of services provided. Effective practices established in this program have been put to use throughout the system with great success. Relationships between adult education providers and high schools have evolved as a result of the partnerships created by this program. During FY08, 347 new students entered the program, and 131 students successfully completed their plan on schedule and earned a high school diploma during the year. An additional 27 students with plans developed in FY08 completed their plans and earned a high school diploma in the first two quarters of FY09.

During FY08, \$2,146,197 was expended through the High School Completion Program. Of that total, \$1,539,136 (72 percent) went to adult education providers. High school partners received \$323,200 (15 percent), and other providers received \$283,861 (13 percent).

The adult education and literacy system has benefited from the establishment of the High School Completion Program. The program should eventually become self-supporting and reimbursement funds should be sufficient to maintain the necessary infrastructure. In addition, the number of instructional staff will be expanded and professional development will be designed to meet the training needs generated by this new student population. These types of improvements will continue as needed.

Under statute, students can not be enrolled in high school and participate in the High School Completion Program. Because of this requirement adult education providers do not counsel potential students until they have officially ended their high school enrollment. In some cases, high school officials refer students to an adult education provider as part of the process to end enrollment. Upon successful completion of a graduation education plan, a student will enroll in the high school serving as the plan partner, and will receive a diploma from that high school. The Legislature may wish to consider allowing students still enrolled in high school to participate in this valuable alternative to the high school experience.

High School Completion Program FY08 High School Partner Participation

| <u>High School</u> | <u>Grad Plans</u> | <u>High School</u> | <u>Grad Plans</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Barnet | 1 | Missisquoi | 25 |
| Bellows Falls | 3 | Montpelier | 21 |
| Bellows Free Academy | 8 | Morristown | 17 |
| Bethel | 4 | Mt. Abraham | 3 |
| Black River | 4 | Mt. Anthony | 11 |
| Blue Mountain | 4 | Mt. Mansfield | 1 |
| Brattleboro | 13 | North Country | 31 |
| Burlington | 51 | Northfield | 2 |
| Cabot | 1 | Otter Valley | 4 |
| Canaan | 1 | Oxbow | 6 |
| Colchester | 7 | Proctor | 1 |
| Concord | 1 | Royalton | 6 |
| Craftsbury | 3 | Richford | 1 |
| Danville | 1 | Rutland | 15 |
| Enosburg | 8 | South Burlington | 5 |
| Essex Comm. Ed Center | 12 | Spaulding | 9 |
| Fairfax | 6 | Springfield | 27 |
| Green Mountain | 4 | St. Johnsbury | 4 |
| Hartford | 17 | Stowe | 3 |
| Harwood | 9 | Twinfield | 3 |
| Hazen | 10 | U-32 | 1 |
| Lake Region | 12 | Vergennes | 4 |
| Lamoille | 3 | West Rutland | 4 |
| Leland & Gray | 6 | Williamstown | 2 |
| Lyndon Institute | 10 | Windsor | 8 |
| Mill River | 11 | Winooski | 3 |
| Milton | 7 | Woodstock | 2 |

HSCP Reimbursements FY08

| | AEL Provider | District/ Tech | Other Providers | Total | Students Served | Grads |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| FY08 Q1 | | | | | | |
| CVABE | 30,167 | 11,754 | 18,271 | 60,192 | 31 | |
| NEKLS | 63,068 | 6,831 | 6,383 | 76,282 | 36 | |
| TTC | 7,600 | 400 | 0 | 8,000 | 6 | |
| VAL | 139,478 | 35,486 | 54,216 | 229,180 | 92 | |
| Q Total | 240,313 | 54,471 | 78,870 | 373,654 | 165 | |
| | | | | | | |
| FY08 Q2 | | | | | | |
| CVABE | 40,872 | 19,308 | 4,678 | 64,858 | 38 | |
| NEKLS | 63,920 | 7,933 | 5,700 | 77,553 | 47 | |
| TTC | 7,389 | 728 | | 8,117 | 4 | |
| VAL | 227,181 | 46,191 | 27,792 | 301,164 | 145 | |
| Q Total | 339,362 | 74,160 | 38,170 | 451,692 | 234 | |
| | | | | | | |
| FY08 Q3 | | | | | | |
| CVABE | 61,837 | 44,726 | 13,250 | 119,813 | 56 | |
| NEKLS | 74,191 | 5,526 | 15,316 | 95,033 | 58 | |
| TTC | 17,790 | 1,830 | | 19,620 | 7 | |
| VAL | 268,853 | 51,464 | 69,396 | 389,713 | 182 | |
| Q Total | 422,671 | 103,546 | 97,962 | 624,179 | 303 | |
| | | | | | | |
| FY08 Q4 | | | | | | |
| CVABE | 96,000 | 36,582 | 17,046 | 149,628 | 60 | 42 |
| NEKLS | 70,894 | 6,995 | 7,923 | 85,812 | 54 | 7 |
| TTC | 17,016 | 2,467 | 1,780 | 21,263 | 6 | 5 |
| VAL | 352,880 | 44,979 | 42,110 | 439,969 | 225 | 84 |
| Q Total | 536,790 | 91,023 | 68,859 | 696,672 | 345 | 131 |
| | | | | | | |
| Year Total | 1,539,136 (72%) | 323,200 (15%) | 283,861 (13%) | 2,146,197 | | 131 |